

[English]

STD Facility in West Bengal

3016. DR. RAMCHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress of work for installation of STD facilities is not satisfactory under Telecom District of Birbhum in West Bengal;

(b) If so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir, out of 27 stations in District Birbhum, West Bengal, 13 stations have already been provided with STD facility. During 1996-97 seven more stations have been planned to be provided with STD facility.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) All the remaining stations in the District of Birbhum shall be provided with STD facility during 9th five Year Plan subject to availability of funds.

Waiting List for Telephone in Nadia, W. Bengal

3017. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons waiting for telephone connections under Chakdah telephone exchange at Nadia district of West Bengal;

(b) total installed capacity of this exchange;

(c) by when Government propose to provide connections to all the waiting listed persons of Chakdah;

(d) steps taken in this regard;

(e) whether it is a fact that the people of Chakdah demanding local desiring facilities with Kalyani which is nearer to Chakdah;

(f) whether any steps are being taken to fulfil this demand;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of persons waiting for telephone connections under Chakdah telephone exchange is 614.

(b) Total installed capacity of this exchange is 1250 lines (C+DOT MBM).

(c) It is proposed to provide connections to all the waiting listed persons of Chakdah during 1997-98.

(d) It is proposed to expand the capacity of Chakdah exchange by 750 lines during 1997-98.

(e) Not to our knowledge.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e).

(g) Does not arise in view of (e).

(h) As per National Charging plan, on the basis of short distance charging area concept, Chakdah falling under Ranaghat SDCA cannot have local call facility with Kalyani which is under Calcutta SDCA.

Licences to Blind Vendors

3018. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue licences to blind vendors for vending at the stations and in Railway Bogies of the Central and Western Railway;

(b) if so, whether the procedure for issue of such licences has been finalised; and

(c) if so, the time bound programmes for the issue of such licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Some representations have been received. However, as per present policy such licences are not issued.

Sharing of Railway Transport

3019. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Transport Policy Committee had fixed the share of Rail traffic to be 72% and that this was accepted by the Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that rail transport is 7 times energy-efficient than road transport and that lesser than 72% rail transport means avoidable oil import and foreign exchange outflow;

(c) if so, details of actual goods traffic during the last three years 72% to traffic and the shortfall between the two and consequent loss of foreign exchange therefor; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rail transport is more than 7 times energy-efficient than road transport. A less than optimum freight carried by rail does mean higher share of load of road transport resulting in more energy consumption and thus higher import bill for oil.

(c) Freight carried by Railways in the last three years is :

1992-93	350.05 million tonnes
1993-94	358.72 million tonnes
1994-95	364.96 million tonnes

No reliable data is available on the volume of the freight carried by roads and thus it may not be possible to estimate the loss of foreign exchange on this account.

(d) Does not arise.

Late running of EMU Train between Katwa and Bandel

3020. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that passengers are agitated due to late running of EMU services between Katwa and Bandel;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the track between Katwa and Bandel has not been improved;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any steps are being taken to improve the entire track for fast moving of EMU trains; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Some complaints have been received in this regard.

(b) to (e). The works for improvement of track have already been taken up. The track has already been strengthened and made fit for running of fast moving EMU trains between Km. 0.00 (Bandel) to Km. 60.00. Further track renewal works for 30 Km. length between Km. 60.00 to 90.00 have already been sanctioned, where track improvement works have been taken up and 10 Km. length of track will be renewed in current year. Further 15 Km. length of track between Km. 98.00 to 105.00 (Katwa) is proposed for sanction in year 1997-98. This will cover the entire Bandel-Katwa section.

Supply of Uniforms to RPF Personnel

3021. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel of South-Eastern Railway have not been supplied uniform (clothing) for about six years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the RPF personnel are being paid the amount for uniform;

(d) if so, the amount paid to each RPF personnel during the above period;

(e) if not the reasons therefor; and

(f) the number of RPF personnel who have been chargesheeted and punished for wearing improper uniform in South-Eastern Railway in particular and Indian Railways in general?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The RPF personnel of S.E. Railway have not been supplied uniform (clothing) since only 1994 on account of rejection by the Inspection Committee of uniform supplied by one supplier, for being inferior, sub-standard and in short measures.

(c) to (e). No amount has been paid to the RPF personnel in lieu of uniform (clothing) by the Railway Administration as no such provision exists.

(f) The number of RPF personnel chargesheeted/punished for wearing improper uniform on S.E. Rly. and on other Zonal Railways during the last six years is as under :-

S.E. Railway	-	8
Other Railways	-	184

Policy For Industrial Workers

3022. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a comprehensive exit policy has been formulated for the Industrial Workers; and

(b) if so, the main factor thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The policy regarding "exit" or "closure" of an industrial establishment or a part thereof and retrenchment of workers is contained in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Act provides for certain measures of protection to the workers in the event of lay off, retrenchment and closure.

Selling of Monthly Tickets

3023. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that at Panagarh Station of Eastern Railway, monthly tickets are not sold to passengers for stations falling between Panagarh to Howrah via Main;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the revenue for monthly tickets at Panagarh station has drastically gone down as the passengers via Main are denied tickets;

(d) if so, the amount of loss for the Eastern Railway for the above reason for the period for which such tickets have been stopped to be sold; and